Water Pollution in Rajkot district

342. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that river Bhadar in Rajkot District in Gujarat has been polluted on a large scale due to the industrial effluents of Jetpur city;

(b) whether the Central Government are aware that people of Dhoraji city are contaminating diseases because they drink this water; and

(c) what preventive measures Government propose to take to relieve the people of Dhoraji and surrounding areas from the hazards of the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) According to the State pollution Control Board, there is no information to this effect.

(c) In order to prevent discharge of pollutants into the river Bhadar, a collection and disposal system of effluents from Jetpur area has been implemented. This will prevent polluted water from going to Dhoraji.

Development of Tourism in Gujarat

343. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new spots of tourism Government propose to develop in Gujarat during the current year and what is the estimated investment;

(b) how many people visited Gir forest in Junagadh district durnig the last year and what is the increase in comparison to that in previous two years; and

(c) how many new spots of tourists interest are proposed to be developed during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Department in consultation with the Government of Gujarat has identified 24 tourist centres in this State for phased development with the combined resources of State, Centre and Private sector. The proposals from the State Government for central assistance are yet to be received.

(b) According to the State Govenment 27105 tourists visited Gir Forest in Junagad District recording an increase of 88 per cent and 91 percent respectively in comparison to the previous two years.

(c) There is no proposal to develop new spots. However, the Department would consider the schemes for the 7th Five Year Plan as and when the State Government forwards such schemes for central assistance subject to the availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

Extension of Vayudoot Services in Tamil Nadu

344. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend Vayudoot services in Tamil Nadu on Madras-Salem, Madurai-Kanya Kumari and Madurai-Tuticorin routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government for the present.

Unused coloured posters lying with the Department of Environment

345. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over a lakh of coloured posters costing

lakhs of rupees published by the Department of Environment during the past three years for distribution throughout the country are lying unused and that most of these posters have been damaged;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for non-distribution of these posters and the estimated loss likely to be incurred as a result thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) and (b) Department of Environment has brought out 2,80,000 posters during the World Environment Day (1983) and (1984). These have been distributed to various agencies all over the country and the balance at present with the Department are only 12,000. No posters have been damaged. The Wild Life Wing of the Department of Environment, which has since become part of the Department of Forests and Wild Life, had brought out 2,80,000 posters. Of these, 1,45,800 are in stock and in good condition. No loss is to be incurred. The posters are being regularly distributed to various user agencies throughout the year.

(c) The remaining posters are being supplied regularly to various agencies for their use. Besides, the Department of Forests & Wild Life proposed to utilise a large number of these posters during the ensuing Wild Life Week in October, 1985.

Effects of pollution on Taj

346. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Taj has been effected by pollution and it is feared that it may lose its originality during the next few decades;

(b) whether Government propose to constitute a committee in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the latest measures adopted by Government to save the Taj?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) There is no conclusive scientific evidence to this effect.

(b) Department of Environment Government of India has a Standing Committee for monitoring pollution abatement measures in Agra-Mathura Region.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The measures taken are :—

(i) An area in Agra-Mathura Region has been identified as a protection zone where location of polluting industries is not permitted.

(ii) The foundries and other polluting industries have been advised to restrict their activities particularly during winter months.

(iii) A green belt has been raised around Taj.

(iv) Research studies have been commissioned for reducing emissions from the foundries through improvisation in the design of cupolas, use of chemical coke and installation of gas scrubbera Studies have also been commissioned to investigate the effect of environmental parameters on the marble.

(v) Five monitoring stations have been set up to check the ambient air quality in the area.